

Message Text

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R 241419Z JUNE 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1531

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8755

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: SGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UR, VN, VS

SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS ON VIETNAM

1. SUMMARY. THE BRITISH EMBASSY HAS PASSED US A REPORT DATED JUNE 19 OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THEIR HEAD OF CHANCERY CHRISTOPHER MALLABY AND YURI KUZNETSOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE SOVIET MFS'S SOUTH EAST ASIA DIVISION, CONCERNING SOUTH VIETNAM. KUZNETSOV NOTED THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO BURMA, WHO IS ACCREDITED TO THE PRG, HAD VISITED SAIGON IN MID-MAY, BUT THAT NEITHER THE SOVIETS NOR ANYONE ELSE HAD YET BEEN
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INVITED TO OPEN A MISSION THERE. THE BRITISH TOLD US THAT THEIR MISSION IN HANOI EXPECTED THE FIRST MISSIONS IN SAIGON TO BE OPENED IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST. KUZNETSOV EXPECTED EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION OF VIETNAM BUT NOT FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND PRESSED THE BRITISH FOR U.S. VIEWS ON ACCEPTANCE OF UNMEMBERSHIP FOR BOTH THE PRG AND THE DRV. THE BRITISH TOLD US THAT KUZNETSOV HINTED AT A QUID PRO QUO OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE ADMISSION OF BOTH KOREAS IF THE U.S. WOULD NOT OPPOSE THE ADMISSION OF BOTH VIETNAMS. THIS INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY THE LAST POINT, SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD WITHIN THE USG. END SUMMARY.

2. KUZNETSOV REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HOPED TO OPEN AN EMBASSY IN SOUTH VIETNAM "SOON." THE NEW REGIME ENCOURAGED FOREIGN EMBASSIES, SAID KUZNETSOV, AND SOME WOULD BE OPENED "IN A MATTER OF WEEKS." THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO RANGOON, WHO IS ACCREDITED TO THE PRG, HAD VISITED SAIGON IN MID-MAY, SAID KUZNETSOV, BUT WAS NOW BACK IN MOSCOW ON LEAVE. (COMMENT: BRITISH EMBOFF BRENNAN, WHO WAS PRESENT FOR THIS CONVERSATION AND PASSED THE REPORT ON TO US, SAID THAT THE UK MISSION IN HANOI HAS REPORTED SPECULATION THERE THAT FOREIGN MISSIONS WOULD BE INVITED TO OPEN MISSIONS IN SAIGON IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST.)

3. REUNIFICATION, SAID KUZNETSOV, COULD BE A LONG PROCESS, LASTING THREE, FIVE, OR TEN YEARS. BUT IS WAS INEVITABLE, AND OUTSIDE POWERS (READ CHINA) SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO MANIPULATE SOUTH VIETNAM AGAINST THE NORTH.

4. KUZNETSOV PRESSED THE BRITISH ON POSSIBLE U.S. REACTION TO AN APPLICATION FOR UN ADMISSION BY BOTH HANOI AND SAIGON. THE BRITISH REPORTED THAT THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF U.S. VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT. BRENNAN SAID THAT KUZNETSOV HAD PUSHED HARD ON THIS QUESTION, WITH THINLY VEILED CONCERN ABOUT A POSSIBLE U.S. VETO ON PRG ADMISSION. BRENNAN ALSO SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HAD STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT A TRADE-OFF MIGHT BE DISCUSSED WHEREBY MOSCOW WOULD SUPPORT THE ADMISSION OF BOTH KOREAS, IF THE U.S. WOULD ALLOW BOTH VIETNAMS. (COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS POSSIBLE TRADE-OFF WAS NOT RAISED DURING ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM'S TALKS IN MOSCOW ON JUNE 13. IN THOSE TALKS, THE SOVIETS SAID THAT UN ADMISSION COULD NOT BE "FORCED" ON ANY COUNTRY AND NORTH KOREA WAS CLEARLY UNWILLING TO JOIN (SEE MOSCOW 8369).

5. ON OTHER TOPICS, KUZNETSOV SAID HE HAD SEEN REPORTS

THAT CAMBODIAN LEADER KHIEU SAMPHAN HAD RECENTLY VISITED
HANOI BUT HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THIS REPORT. IN LAOS,
JUZNETSOV SAID THAT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT COULD
STILL PROPERLY BE CALLED A "COALITION" WHILE THE
INTERNAL POLITICAL PROCESS CONTINUES TO WORK ITSELF
OUT. KUZNETSOV ALSO NOTED THE LAOTINS' ALLEGED
INTEREST IN U.S. AID "WITHOUT STRINGS." THE ORIGINAL
USAID ACCORD WAS DATED 1951, HE SAID, AND NEEDED TO BE
REEXAMINED AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME.

6. FULL TEXT OF THE BRITISH REPORT BEING POUCHED TO
DEPARTMENT (EUR/SOV).
STOESSEL

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